THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Central assistance allocated for development of wastelands and Social Forestry in 1985-86 and 1986-87 is Rs. 172.80 and Rs. 227.67 crores respectively and the share of Andhra Pradesh in the above two years is Rs. 26.32 and Rs. 30.74 crores respectively. The details are given in attached statement. [*See* Appendix CXXXVIII, Annexure No. 39].

Delay in implementation of public sector projects

1326. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many public sector projects have been delayed in their implementation even after the plan approval for the past three years;

(b) what is the cost escalation because of the delay in the implementation of the projects; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to implement the public sector projects expeditiously, so as to avoid further expenditure in those projects?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) During the past three years, of the projects being monitored by this Ministry 92 central sector projects, each costing Rs. 20 crores and above have been delayed in their implementation with reference to the commissioning dates anticipated at the time of Annual Plan 1983-84.

(b) Cost escalation arises due to various reasons like delay in the acquisition of land, forests clearance change in scope, law & order disturbances, inadequate allocation of funds, price escalation, under-estimation of costs in order to get the projects sanctioned, in-puts supply problems, etc. It is not feasible to segregate the cost escalation as a consequence of delays in projects implementation.

(c) The following steps are being taken to contain the time and cost over-runs;

(i) Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plans.

(ii) Effective monitoring through Monthly Flash Report and Quarterly Status Report monitoring system.

(iii) Constant pressure on project authorities for expeditious completion.

(iv) Inter-Ministerial coordination and inter-action.

(v) Close follow-up by concerned Ministries and project authorities with State Governments, equipment suppliers, Consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

Reports regarding shooting of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

1327. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to recent report that many Indian fishermen were shot at by Sri Lankan Navy boats in the Indian territorial waters;

(b) whether the attention of the Government of Sri Lanka has been drawn to such incidents; and

(c) what other steps are being taken for the security of Indian fishermen going into the sea near Rameshwaram for fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Some reports of attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy have come to Government's notice. According to the Sri Lanka Government the concerned Indian